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Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



New U.S. Patent Application  
Title: **A WOUND RETRACTOR** - Being a Continuation-in-Part of U.S.  
Application Serial No. 10/374,523, filed February 27, 2003 which is a  
Continuation of Application No. 09/848,341, filed May 7, 2001, now U.S.  
Patent No. 6,582,364, which is a Continuation of Application No.  
09/688,138, filed October 16, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,254,534. This  
application claims the priority to Ireland Application No. 990861, filed  
October 14, 1999, Ireland Application No. 991053, filed December 16,  
1999, European Application No. 00650010, filed on February 18, 2000,  
and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/401,023,  
filed August 6, 2002  
Inventors and Addresses:

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Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark  
Office as a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/374,523, filed  
February 27, 2003 which is a Continuation of Application No. 09/848,341, filed May 7,  
2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,582,364, which is a Continuation of Application No.  
09/688,138, filed October 16, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,254,534. This application  
claims the priority to Ireland Application No. 990861, filed October 14, 1999, Ireland  
Application No. 991053, filed December 16, 1999, European Application No. 00650010,  
filed February 18, 2000, and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No.  
60/401,023, filed August 6, 2002.

**Commissioner for Patents**

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1. Application - 31 pages, including 6 independent claims and 53 claims total.
2. Drawings - 33 sheets of drawings containing 51 figures.
3. Preliminary Amendment.

This application is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f). Applicants await notification from the Patent and Trademark Office of the time set for filing the Declaration and paying the filing fee. Please **do not** charge the filing fee to our Deposit Account without our authorization.

Applicants claim the right to priority based on Ireland Application No. 990861, filed October 14, 1999, Ireland Application No. 991053, filed December 16, 1999, and European Application No. 00650010, filed February 18, 2000, also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/401,023, filed August 6, 2002.

Please address all correspondence with respect to this application to:

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Please accord this application a serial number and filing date.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 6, 2003

By:

  
Ernest F. Chapman  
Reg. No. 25,961

EFC/FPD/sci  
Enclosures